

Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**MARCH 16, 2016**

**7:00 PM**

**MAYOR JOSEPH ORLOW PRESIDING**

**PRESENT**

Trustee William Hayes  
Trustee Anthony Girard  
Trustee Timothy Carota  
Trustee Edward J LaFave

Brian Abare, DPW Superintendent  
Michael Muller, Attorney  
Kevin Judd, Police Chief

Mayor Orlow asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2016 Board Meeting.

Trustee Carota moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Trustee Girard and the Board unanimously approved.

Mayor Orlow then asked for a motion to approve the bills audited today. Trustee Hayes moved to approve the bills.

FY 2015-2016	
<u>Vouchers 91495-91557</u>	
General Fund	\$21,531.82
Water Fund	21,367.61
Sewer Fund	<u>3,749.84</u>
Total	\$46,649.27

Seconded by Trustee Girard and the Board unanimously approved.

Mayor Orlow stated that at this time he would open the meeting for Public Forum to be limited to 5 minutes.

Mr. Harry Gutheil was present and asked who the Village Budget Officer was. Mayor Orlow responded by saying he was the Budge Officer. Mr. Gutheil then asked if the prior Budget

Workshop was based on a tentative budget and stated that there was no discussion on the fund balance during the workshop. Mr. Gutheil wants to know what is being put in the budget for fund balance at year end. It was stated by the Clerk-Treasurer that there would probably be \$30,000 or \$50,000 left in the fund balance. Mr. Gutheil then asked if that was based on expenditures or revenue. The Clerk-Treasurer stated it was the difference of the two at year end. Mr. Gutheil stated that the Village should look at the budgeted health care cost. He also asked what a new fire truck would cost and the fact that the money appropriated is not enough to cover the cost. He thanked the Board for their consideration in putting the account totals to more realistic figures but then stated that there will be an increase of \$25,000.00 in just union contract awards next year.

He would like to know how the Mayor plans on this being a one year plan. Mayor Orlow stated that he apologized for his comment regarding this being a “one year” plan. He meant that this plan has to work for one year, and he hopes that the Village Board can put together something different for the next year. Mayor Orlow stated that he did comment that the Village would find the lowest percentage in which to raise the taxes. The proposed rate is an increase of 19%. Mr. Gutheil stated that someone needs to redo the math, because it is 24%; Trustee Girard stated yes the percentage is wrong and it is an increase of 24%. Mr. Gutheil asked who was going to want to invest in the Village with such a high tax increase. Mayor Orlow stated that he hopes that for the future an increase such as this does not happen again. The increase will be around \$1.12 per thousand. Mr. Gutheil stated that Trustee Girard has a very good point by suggesting that the Village revisit the duplicate prescription plans that are offered to the union employees. Mayor Orlow stated that they have had extensive meetings with that the Police and CSEA union presidents. Mayor Orlow stated that when he spoke with the unions he strongly expressed that

he would hope that the Village and the unions could reach an agreement without the cost of litigation. Mr. Gutheil asked if the contract stated a specific prescription plan and if so, did the Mayor sign the contracts. Mayor Orlow stated that this would have been a prior court order. Clerk-Treasurer tried to explain that for many years the Village did not have prescription coverage under their health insurance, but elected to have prescription coverage through a CSEA prescription plan. In today's time all health insurances include a prescription plan and that is why the non-union and elected officials resigned from the CSEA prescription plan.

Mr. Gutheil then asked if the DPW wash bay was NYS mandated. DPW Superintendent Brian Abare stated that he is not sure if it is a mandate, but it is required under the MS-4 process. Mr. Gutheil asked if the school has a facility and if the Village could use that to wash their vehicles and equipment. Mayor Orlow then stated the Village will receive approximately \$100,000 for the construction of the wash bay. Mr. Gutheil stated that it is still tax payers' money. Mr. Gutheil then talked about the year and the condition of the DPW loader and how he was able to get a recycling grant to pay ½ the money for highway equipment by having a compost area. Trustee Hayes stated that the Village does not have a compost area.

He would then like to talk about the assessor. He stated that there is nothing budgeted for an assessor and the number mentioned at the prior meeting were not real numbers. He stated that the assessment is \$1,200,000. There are records online, he has done a lot of research and feels the Village does not need an assessor. Mayor Orlow stated that it is something that the Village will be looking into, and at this point the Village needs to research all possibilities.

Trustee Girard stated that since the Mayor has already worked with the unions regarding the deletion of the CSEA Prescription plan that he does not feel there is a need for him to meet with them. Mayor Orlow stated the he would definitely like Trustee Girard involved since it was his

suggestion at a prior budget workshop to go back to the unions and try to get them agree to drop the additional coverage. Trustee Girard stated that he would be happy to sit in on any meeting with the Mayor if he wanted to revisit the idea, but to start the conversation over would not be worth it. He is under the understanding that the unions are reconsidering their decision to not drop the additional coverage. Mayor Orlow stated that this has been a yearlong process.

Mayor Orlow then asked if there were any additional comments or questions for the public forum. There were no additional comments.

**1) Memorial Bench Request – Annette and Mark O’Neil – Previously Tabled**

Mayor Orlow asked Brian Abare to review this tabled item. Mr. Abare has met with Ms. O’Neil and she understands that a bench will be permitted along the By-Way or in the gazebo area. Mr. Abare then stated that he would like the Board to form a committee to review where there are already benches and the placement of additional benches along the By-Way and in the park areas. Trustee LaFave stated that there are other ways to memorialize (clocks, trees, etc). Trustee Carota stated that he would be willing to meet with Mr. Abare to review what is currently in the area and what the Village can do for additional memorial requests.

**2) Moreau Community Center – Fourth Annual Block Party and Fun Walk/Run, September 10, 2016**

Mayor Orlow stated that in addition to this year’s Moreau Community Center block party on New Street they are also requesting permission to have a walk/run which will involve in certain areas of Hudson Street, Harrison Avenue, Sixth Street and Main Street. The Board would like additional information regarding the walk/run and therefore this item will be tabled until additional information can be determined.

**3) 48 Main Street – Water Bill**

Mayor Orlow asked DPW Superintendent Brian Abare to please discuss this with the Board. Mr. Abare stated that it seems that there are having been two water bills at the locations of 48 Main Street. The building currently houses 2 business and 2 apartments with one meter in the building. One billing was through the meter and one bill was flat rate with no meter. Attorney Muller stated that under the Village codes the billing procedures for Mr. Merchant's bill is correct. Currently one service has been removed from the premises. Trustee LaFave moved to deny the request for refund and for Attorney Muller will write a letter to the owner with an explanation of the Boards decision; seconded by Trustee Carota and the Board unanimously approved.

**4) Set Budget Hearing Date and Time**

Trustee Carota moved to approve the Budget Hearing for 7:00 PM on April 6, 2015; seconded by Trustee LaFave seconded the motion and Board unanimously approved.

**5) Fire Company Member – Timothy Schwab**

Trustee Hayes questioned the fact that the paperwork for the individual states that he passed the physical; but that the respiratory testing is for training purposes only. It was stated that the Village is only to acknowledge the individual since we no longer approve or carry compensation on them. Again as stated in the past, the Village enrolls all members in the NYS LENS driving program because the Village provides a fire truck for them. Trustee Carota moved to acknowledge the membership of Timothy Schwab; seconded by Trustee Girard and the Board unanimously approved.

**6) Stored Technology Solutions , Inc Meeting, April 8, 2016 at 11:30 AM**

This is informational only and all Department heads, Trustee Girard and Mayor Orlow will be meeting with Stored Tech to review our current computer support contract and cost saving options per a budget workshop suggestion.

**7) City of Glens Falls/Village of South Glens Falls Facility Agreement**

The City of Glens Falls Sewer Facility Agreement will expire at the end of this year. Mayor Orlow will write a letter to the City to start the new agreement process. Attorney Muller suggested this letter be sent 1<sup>st</sup> class and certified mail. Trustee Hayes moved to have the Mayor submit a letter to the City of Glens Falls; seconded by Trustee Girard and the Board unanimously approved.

**8) American Water Works Association – John Dixon Jr. – April 12-14, 2016**

Trustee LaFave moved to approve the request for John Dixon Jr. to attend the American Water Works Association training on April 13, 2016; seconded by Trustee Carota and the Board unanimously approved.

**9) DPW Report – on file**

Item #11 Bids of \$4,600.00 for the Bucket Truck and a bid of \$415.00 for the small truck box have been received. Trustee Hayes moved to approval the items mentioned in item #11 of the DPW report; seconded by Trustee Carota and the Board unanimously approved.

There is another municipality that would like to purchase the big truck box and he would like permission to pursue that possibility. Trustee Hayes moved to approval this from item #11 of the DPW report; seconded by Trustee Girard and the Board unanimously approved.

**10) Trustee's Report**

**Trustee Girard** – Attending a meeting regarding the super-fund impact of the Mid-Town Shopping Center (Old Laundromat/Aroxy site area). This project is in the design phase at

this point and will be done on a priority list. There will be testing of the ground water in the Hamilton Street area. At this point there is a lot of unknown for the extent of the contamination. There has been ventilation systems installed which was in put in the cement slab and vented into the air.

**Trustee Carota** – None

**Trustee Hayes** – The Prospect Street project income surveys have been coming in. The last he knew the consultants has received 113 back but at this point he does not have a final count. He stressed that these surveys are needed for the Village to continue with a grant process. This is a very important document for the residents to complete. Trustee Girard asked if the Village office has received any questions or comments regarding the income surveys. There have been no inquiries to the Village office regarding the survey confidentiality process. Trustee Hayes stated that he himself has received inquiries.

The Cooper's Cave brochures will be a 50/50 split with the City of Glens Falls again this year. There will be a meeting with a representative from New Paltz College here on Monday for a meeting and tour of Cooper's Cave.

**Trustee LaFave** -None

**11) Mayor Report** – None

Mayor Orlow opened the meeting back up for Public Forum.

Mr. Gutheil would like to see the Village tax roll on the Village website. Also he commented that there are some Village minutes and Budget workshop minutes that have not been updated. The Clerk - Treasurer will look into it. Mr. Gutheil then said that he would like to see the Village invest in the audio equipment for the minutes which would allow the minutes to be posted on line in an audio version. The Clerk-Treasurer stated that she has

spoken with Town of Moreau regarding their equipment and the total cost would be around \$900.00. Her budget will not support the expense.

At 8:10 PM Mayor Orlow asked to close the Public Meeting Trustee Hayes moved to close the meeting; seconded by Trustee Carota and the Board unanimously approved.

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Dannae Bock